

The **JET** GAZETTE



141st Air Refueling Wing

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The Newsletter of the 141st Air Refueling Wing • WA ANG • Fairchild AFB
Serving Air Guard Members and their families in Eastern Washington

Building moves highlight Total Force Integration

by Maj. Sandy Smock
141st Air Refueling Wing Public Affairs

Total Force Integration between active duty and National Guard Wings was evident when more 141st ARW offices moved into 92nd ARW buildings in mid September at Fairchild Air Force Base, Washington. One of these moves included Col. Gregory Bulkley, 141st ARW commander. His office, along with the entire command section, was one of the first in the 141st Headquarters to pack up and transfer to the White House. The White House is a reference to building 2285, which formerly was the 92nd Headquarters building, and will now be the 92nd and 141st ARW Headquarters building.

Recently, the air refueling mission at Fairchild AFB began a new and significant chapter in its history. On October 1, 2007, the 92nd ARW and the 141st ARW entered into a classic association arrangement, the first of its kind for active duty and Air National Guard KC-135 wings. With no exact blueprint of how to accomplish such a new concept; each day for both the 92nd and 141st has introduced new challenges and tested communication within different groups.

A group that has been working together as active duty and Guard is the Communication Squadrons. Both, Major Melissa Cunningham, 92nd Communication Squadron commander, and Major Brian Scott, 141st Communication Squadron commander, started initiating a plan to join forces a year ago.

"We saw nothing but gains even back then," said Major Cunningham.

Both groups are now in one building, sitting side by side and continuing to successfully complete their communication missions.



Maj. Melissa Cunningham, 92nd ARW Communications Squadron commander, and Maj. Brian Scott, 141st ARW Communications Squadron commander, stand in front of their co-located offices. (Photo by Maj. Sandy Smock, 141st ARW Public Affairs)

With two cultures both Guard and active duty are able to bring their strengths to the team. Expertise by each group is brought to the other group to maintain continuity and improve processes during the transition stages.

Due to Air Force cuts in the active duty Communication Squadrons the 92nd will lose over 100 personnel which reduces their squadron in half and with that is experience lost.

"This association could not have come at a better time," said Major Cunningham. "All I am bringing in is new airman and between 11 new people they may have only nine stripes between them. We are excited to see the mentoring and training from the Guard, both technical and professional."

Being a Guard member usually means being at the same location for many years and in some

cases an entire career. This equates to seeing many of the same faces and developing lifetime relationships as co-workers and neighbors while developing personal ties to the community along the way. With the new association with active duty changing personnel will become an added part of the Guard culture and seeing some of the same faces an entire tour will become part of the active duty experience.

The accomplishments of over a year of working out the details between different groups will not be lost in the newly joined Communication Squadrons due to change in personnel. Part of the initial communication association plan was to add a continuity plan for changing commanders.

According to Major Scott some key notes for future Communication Squadron success are the

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Vice Commander, 141st ARW:
Col. Robert B. Aunan

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The *Jet Gazette* welcomes articles and ideas that will enhance the paper. If you have suggestions for features or specific articles, please contact the Public Affairs Office at 247-7041/7042 on UTA weekends.

MISSION

The mission of the *Jet Gazette* is to effectively communicate events and information of the 141st Air Refueling Wing to unit members, their families and retirees and to recognize personal and unit achievements within the wing.

Notes from the Top

Holy cow, where'd summer go? I'm not sure about the rest of you, but these past few months sure zipped by in a hurry for me. Since I'm writing this article on the first day of Autumn, I guess summer is officially over. Where to start on what we accomplished since my last update.....not an easy task.

I guess I'll start with some of the major moves that have happened. Our Command Post is now collocated with the 92nd, creating Fairchild Command Post. Col. Aunan, Lt. Col. Reid Isaak, Tech. Sgt. Anderson and I moved into the "White House", so both wing commanders are there now.

If you haven't been in, please stop by and say hello, but be careful of all the construction still going on to fit MPF, Finance and much of the wing staff into their offices. Vehicle MX and Ops are in the final stages of moving, the EMEDS equipment is being put on racks in Hangar 1033, and we're on track to get the 256 CBCS off the hill and on to Fairchild before we have to do any snow removal.

As if that isn't enough, we've also been very busy doing the mission and supporting the community. Thanks to all of you who volunteered for Hoopfest, the National Veteran's Wheelchair Games, the return of the 81st Brigade Combat Team, Operation Spokane Heroes donation to the Wounded Warrior program, ESGR flights, Camp WANGY, etc. I would also like to thank the Rising Six for taking on the remodel of the Air Force room at the veteran's home and welcome our newest organization, the Diversity Champions Team. Thanks to Tech. Sgt. Joe Vela and Staff Sgt. Melissa McCarver for heading this group. We had a great celebration of our 85th Anniversary and the 80th Anniversary of air refueling. This event allowed us to showcase the association and was very successful. As you can see from this list (and I'm sure I missed some), we make a difference in this community on a regular basis.

Oh yeah, we also have a military mission! Next time you see a member of Wingspan (from the band), ask them about their tour of Iraq and Afghanistan. 21 concerts, 6000 screaming rock fans, and they were asked to extend their tour to play on the 4th of July. Our Security Forces are downrange on their 179 day deployment to Baghdad and all is going well. Our aircrews and maintainers are currently deployed for their AEF rotation and also doing well. We supported the Police and Fire Games with CE and the Med Group as a precursor to our support of the 2010 Olympics, and the clinic is getting ready for their HSI next week.

Bottom line is we're busy. I get some questions about how much we have to give up: planes, facilities, etc. I would counter that we haven't given up as much as we've gained. Sure there are monumental changes going on, but we're still very integral to the mission and are actually growing in some areas. You don't have to read very far in National Guard magazine (free to NGAUS members, so join today) to realize how many organizations are in much worse shape than we are and truly trying to find a viable future. We continue to do outstanding work, and I have no doubt we'll continue to do great things for the next 85 years.

Thanks for coming out

Col. B



Total Force Integration, continued from page 1

following: Formalize as many elements as possible through Memorandum Of Agreements, make sure that the NCOICs and OICs follow the MOAs, and establish positive relationships with the new leadership as they arrive.

As building moves occur, decisions are finalized and new relationships are built the base will experience changes as it always has but it will be the same two Wings that have always worked together. Now they will do so just under a name of Total Force Integration.

“It really all comes together if everybody is working together to get things done; that is really what TFI means,” said Major Scott.

Working side by side with military leadership throughout all the decision-making is a third party who has been involved in the process of creating a successful military team. Bill Long, an AFSSO21 consultant with Mainstream GS, works with cross functional teams while they are undergoing changes in the workplace. He also has been working with leadership from both sides since May 2008 and has been happy to be a part of this very important objective.

“The past year had challenges and at times it seemed like we would take one step forward and two steps back. However, sitting down and analyzing progress that has been made over the last twelve months is truly amazing. Together, Air National Guard and active duty have worked extremely hard to transform wing wide operations and integrate mission critical processes that will increase mission capability and effectiveness. I am extremely proud of all who have been actively involved with Total Force Integration and look forward to seeing the progress ‘Team Fairchild’ will make in the coming months.”

Sergeant Receives Airman's Medal

by Maj. Sandy Smock
141st Air Refueling Wing Public Affairs

Tech. Sgt. Michael Bergquist received the Airman's Medal in August for distinguishing himself by heroism involving voluntary risk of life near Yakima, Washington, on June 3, 2006. While representing Fairchild Air Force Base in a five-stage multi-purpose relay event, Sgt. Bergquist selflessly saved a fellow competitor from drowning in the frigid, snow-melt swollen waters of the Yakima River.



General Arthur J. Lichte, commander, Air Mobility Command, presents the Airman's Medal to Tech. Sgt. Michael Bergquist on August 21. (Photo by Senior Airman Joshua Chapman, 92nd ARW Public Affairs).

Diversity Champion Team

Everyone is welcomed to participate in the new Diversity Council for the 141st Air Refueling Wing, now known as the Diversity Champion Team. The DCT works in conjunction with the Wing commander as a tool to brainstorm diversity strategies to enhance the working atmosphere of the Wing. Please contact Tech. Sgt. Joe Vela at 247-7700 or Staff Sgt. Melissa McCarver at 247-7310 for more information.

Guard members volunteer for National Veterans Wheelchair Games

by Maj. Sandy Smock
141st Air Refueling Wing Public Affairs

Hundreds of supporters sitting in the Spokane Veterans Memorial Arena participated in a ceremony involving over 500 injured national veteran heroes. Athletes were escorted by Washington Air National Guard and active duty Air Force members from Fairchild Air Force Base, Washington during the 29th National Veterans Wheelchair Games (NVWG) on July 13.

Military members held state flags for each athlete's home state. It was an environment filled with patriotism, honor and respect. The excitement was one of a homecoming for many of the veterans. The Games, which are the largest annual wheelchair sports event in the world, were hosted by the Spokane VA Medical Center and the Northwest Chapter of the Paralyzed Veterans of America and included over 300 local military member's participation.

The National Veterans Wheelchair Games has a rich history starting in 1981 at the VA Medical Center in Richmond, Virginia and has continued to grow from 74 veterans from 14 states with a small variety of sport venues to now over 500 veterans from over 45 states, Puerto Rico and Great Britain and 17 sports. This event has become more than a sports competition; it has become a family reunion for many of these veterans and their families.

This event began with long flights and travel challenges for many athletes but it didn't keep their spirits down. From the minute the veterans arrived at Spokane International Airport they were greeted by groups such as the Washington National Guard and the Patriot Guard motorcycle and Operation Spokane Heroes organizations.

The Army National Guard worked long shifts to ensure that veterans were given the correct wheelchair and felt welcomed as they departed the aircraft.

"It was important for the Army National Guard to support and recognize the service that all these veterans have provided for our country. Greeting the veterans was one of the best honors I have ever had," said SFC Timothy Young, Army National Guard member.

This event required over a year of hard work and long hours by Spokane VA Medical Center staff and local volunteers. Over 3,000 local volunteers were required to make an event of this magnitude



Athletes participating in the 29th NVWG are greeted by the Washington Patriot Guard in preparation for the Game's opening ceremony. (Photo by Staff Sgt. Anthony Ennamorato, 141st ARW Public Affairs)

a success. It didn't take long for military volunteers to meet participating veterans and exchange stories and know what the Games were really about.

"The athletes were amazing people! I met an 83 year old World War II veteran who made everyone around him smile. To see so many volunteers from all walks of life come together made me very proud to be a member of the military community, as well as the Spokane community," said Senior Master Sgt. Sherrie Cramb, Air National Guard member.

The week was filled with something to offer for everyone. Groups of all ages cheered athletes as they watched faces of determination, strain and sometimes even pain. It became evident that the more the athlete wanted victory, whether it be personal or public, the more the crowd would be there to encourage and support them. A common theme could be found no matter what sport; each participant's challenge became the crowd's challenge; each participant's victory became the crowd's victory.

With the conclusion of each Game comes a sense of victory for each individual involved; whether a participating athlete, a family member or a novice supporter. Through these Games, the long and painful rehabilitation of veterans is rewarded and reminds everyone of the sacrifices made of those in uniform. The city of Spokane and its local military members will not soon forget the gift of

sportsmanship, patriotism and camaraderie that was witnessed in the 2009 Games.

"It was an exciting and memorable week that I will always value – it was truly inspirational! Every American should strive to emulate the characteristics of these heroic veterans – their continuing courage and perseverance is heartening," said Capt. Laura Schultz, Air National Guard member.



A veteran participating in the 29th NVWG salutes while passing by the Washington Patriot Guard in preparation for the Game's opening ceremony. (Photo by Staff Sgt. Anthony Ennamorato, 141st ARW Public Affairs).



Commander of the 141st Air Refueling Wing, Col. Gregory Bulkley, waits with a participant before he tees off during the 29th NVWG. (Photo by Staff Sgt. Anthony Ennamorato, 141st ARW Public Affairs).



Volunteers and participants watch Kim Yee, a disabled Army veteran from Menlo Park, CA, as he performs the bench press during the 29th NVWG. Mr. Yee takes first place in his division after bench pressing 170 lbs. (Photo by Staff Sgt. Anthony Ennamorato, 141st ARW Public Affairs).



Gabriel Diaz deLeon, Army veteran, from Colorado Springs, CO, throws the shot put during track and field events, where he earns first place. (Photo by Staff Sgt. Anthony Ennamorato, 141st ARW Public Affairs).

Spokane County proclaims August 2009 – Washington Air National Guard Appreciation Month

As the Washington Air National Guard celebrates its 85th anniversary

by Lt. Col. Nancy Reid Isaak
141st Air Refueling Wing Public Affairs



District 3 - Commissioner Bonnie Mager, District 1 - Commissioner Todd Mielke, 141st ARW Commander, Col. Greg Bulkley, and District 2 - Commissioner Mark Richard stand with the proclamation certificate recognizing the month of August as Washington Air National Guard Appreciation Month. (Photo by Staff Sgt. Anthony Ennamorato, 141st ARW Public Affairs).



Spokane County District 3 - Commissioner Bonnie Mager, shows the audience the Wing coin presented to her by Col. Bulkley. (Photo by Staff Sgt. Anthony Ennamorato, 141st ARW Public Affairs).

During a county commissioners meeting held July 14th, Commissioner Mark Richard read the proclamation in honor of the 85th anniversary of the Washington Air National Guard, "urging the citizens of Spokane County to thank them for their service and to join in this special observance."



Combined Federal Campaign

The mission of the CFC is to promote and support philanthropy through a program that is employee focused, cost-efficient, and effective in providing all federal employees the opportunity to improve the quality of life for all.

CFC is the world's largest and most successful annual workplace charity campaign, with more than 300 CFC campaigns throughout the country and internationally the purpose is to help raise millions of dollars each year. Pledges are made by Federal civilian, postal and military donors during the campaign season. This is an opportunity to support eligible non-profit organizations that provide health and human service benefits throughout the world.

Click here → <http://www.opm.gov/CFC/> for more information on CFC.

Maj. Sandy Smock is the 2009 CFC Campaign Coordinator. The 141st ARW campaign kick off will be on Thursday, October 22. More details will be sent out in the near future.

Please support this year's Combined Federal Campaign!

The 141st ARW wins first place in Federal Agency's Chili Cook-off

*By Tech. Sgt. Michael Stewart
141st Air Refueling Wing Public Affairs*

Maj. Sandy Smock, 141st ARW Public Affairs, and her husband Matthew, took home the "Gold" during this year's Combined Federal Campaign Chili Cook-off.

Thanks to Sandy and her husband, not only will 141st ARW be engraved on the winning plaque, the 141st ARW received the collected monies totaling \$425.00 to be donated in our name to a CFC organization of our choice! Way to go Smock family!



The Fighters and Field

By Tech. Sgt. Wes Walton
141st Air Refueling Wing Historian

The 116th activated under the orders of President Franklin D. Roosevelt in 1940 as World War II was about to break out. At first, the unit was assigned to Gray Field at Fort Lewis, Washington, where the unit flew anti-submarine patrols along the Pacific Coast. The unit members were eventually split up to provide experience to photo reconnaissance units or to other air corps units filled with inexperienced draftees.

In 1941, the Department of the Defense purchased the area then known as "Sunset Field" from Spokane County for a World War II B-17 and C-47 training facility. Following the acquisition, they renamed the facility Geiger (GEG) Field in honor of Major Harold C. Geiger, a pioneer in Army aviation and ballooning. After the attack on Pearl Harbor most members served over seven years by war's end. Many of the members died during World War II and some were prisoners of war.

After the war ended in 1946, the unit was reactivated back at Felts Field with P-51 Mustangs, thus beginning its new mission of fighter-interception. The 116th came under the 141st Air Defense Group with the headquarters in Spokane.

In 1949, the Washington Air National Guard's 116th Fighter-Interceptor Squadron began operations on

the field. From then on the unit would see a quick succession of aircraft come and go over the next three decades of Fighter-Interception.

In 1950, the squadron was the first Guard unit west of the Mississippi River to be equipped with jets. The need for more space and longer runways prompted a move from Felts Field to Geiger Field at the present day Spokane Airport.

As a result of the Korean Conflict, the 116th

Fighter Squadron was again called to active duty and received new F-86 Saber Jets. After only four months of training, the unit was ordered to Shepards Grove, England, to bolster NATO forces in Europe. The move was the first time in aviation history a National Guard fighter squadron would cross over to the European Theater under its own power and only the second time such a move was ever attempted without air refueling. During this time pilots scored fourth overall against active duty squadrons in aerial gunnery. This earned the unit the prestigious Spaatz Trophy given to the best Air National Guard flying squadron in the United States. The unit was released from active duty November 1952, but the aircraft remained in England. The unit returned to Geiger Field and was later reequipped.

In 1955, they received their first Lockheed F-94B Starfire all-weather interceptor. With this new aircraft, the mission of the 116th Fighter Interceptor Squadron changed from day interceptor to day and night all-weather interceptor.

From 1958-1964 the unit flew the F-89D Northrop "Scorpion," this aircraft was nuclear capable as it fired the Genie air-to-air missile designed to knock down Soviet bomber formations. It was also dubbed "the world's largest vacuum cleaner," by unit maintainers since the front wheel placed the plane's intake vents very close to the ground.

1964 saw the arrival of the F-102 Convair "Delta Dagger," the planes innovative pyramid shaped wings made it distinct among the other fighter-interceptors flown in the United States.

The year 1967 was a "trophy" year for the 141st Fighter Group. Trophies and awards received included the Spaatz Trophy for the most Outstanding Air National Guard Flying Unit, the Air Na-

tional Guard Outstanding Unit Plaque, the Air Force Outstanding Unit Trophy and the Winston P. Wilson Award. In 1969, the unit accumulated an outstanding record, 37,900 accident-free flying hours, receiving the 25th Air Division Flying Safety Award five years in a row.

From 1969 to 1975 the F-101B McDonnell-Douglas "Voodoo" could be seen over the skies of the Northwest, equipped with after-burners, this plane could reach speeds of 1,095 mph. A true pleasure and devastating weapon for pilots of the 116th to fly.

The 116th Fighter-Interceptor Squadron flew almost 30 years of air defense over Northwestern skies. Of the total transports, trainers and fighter



Major Harold C. Geiger



F-101B McDonnell-Douglas "Voodoo"



F-102 Convair "Delta Dagger"



P-51 "Mustang"



256 Combat Communication Squadron deploys down under



Members of the Washington Air National Guard and Australian Army pose for a group photo during Exercise Talisman Saber 09. Talisman Saber focuses on operational and tactical interoperability through "high-end" medium intensity scenarios involving live and virtual forces. (Photo by Tech Sgt. Jeff Densley, 141st ARW Public Affairs).

By Tech. Sgt. Jeff Densley
141st Air Refueling Wing Public Affairs

For twenty-three days, a team of 39 members from the Washington Air National Guard participated in Exercise Talisman Saber 2009 (TS09). This team was comprised of several units around the state including: 256 Combat Communication Squadron (256 CBCS), 242 Combat Communication Squadron (242 CBCS), 252 Combat Communication Group (252 CBCG) and the 141st Air Refueling Wing. TS09 is a biennial, multinational, joint force military operation led by the United States and supported by the Australians. TS09 focused on operational and tactical interoperability through "high-end" medium intensity scenarios involving live and virtual forces. This exercise was conducted in Australia from July 6-26, 2009.

From the initial planning stages of this exercise, senior leadership members were solving potential roadblocks and obstacles. Everything from how to get equipment over to Australia, whether to send the volunteering members on a military aircraft or civilian airline—even elements like per diem, ground transportation and meals had to be discussed and ironed out beforehand. Adding in the overseas component only made it that much more of a challenge.

"We knew we were going into a different environment. With our typical training exercises we can plan about 99% of everything...we came in only knowing about 20% of the information we normally work off of for this one," said Senior

Master Sgt. Robbi Croyle, superintendent, 256 CBCS, TS09.

The primary objectives of the 256 CBCS were three-fold: to provide a command and control network for the Australian Opposition Force Headquarters, 1 Brigade. This network provided a Centrix Four Eyes system, which is a coalition secure that provided both voice and data capabilities. The second objective was to set up and maintain a Radio Frequency link (RF link) that spanned approximately 10 kilometers. This RF link was used by the Air Force Research Laboratory (AFRL) and the unmanned aerial vehicles (UAV) they are testing to send data back to 1 Brigade for video and photo analysis, troop movements and other potential threats. The last objective for the 256 CBCS was to provide an internet cafe, which would function 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. The benefit of this cafe is to show that the 256 CBCS has the capability to provide services for deployed members to contact family members via email and phone and give the deployed member access to personal email and Internet access during their off-time.

During the set up of this complicated maze of computers, secure terminals, wires, phone lines and fiber optic cables the guardsmen took many opportunities to integrate with the local Australian Army. "Training with the Aussies gave our troops the opportunity to see how things can be done a little differently," said Capt. Christine Wright, OIC, 256 CBCS during TS09.

Many areas that could have presented road-

blocks and bottle necks in the system were avoided, thanks to the 256 CBCS leadership and experience to foresee and curtail those trouble spots before they existed. "We have a great group of folks. They all work very hard. It's wonderful to work with such knowledgeable people. We use everybody and everybody is valued on our team," said Master Sgt. Paul Fisher, 256 CBCS, facility chief, Network Control Center.

Working in a joint force environment did provide it's own unique set of cultural hurdles however. While the U.S. and Australia both speak English, sometimes they used unique terms. For instance, our 3C's (Communications-Computer Systems Operators) in the U.S. Air Force are affectionately called "Geeks" in the Australian Army. A Liney to an Australian troop is the same as a Cable Dawg to a U.S. Air Force airman. Cultural challenges existed, but both nations seemed to embrace them and take it all in stride. Discovering these challenges and facing them in a controlled environment, whether they be technical or cultural, was one of the primary reasons for TS09.

The men and woman of the 256 CBCS, 242 CBCS, 252 CBCG and 141st ARW are true professionals who have an outstanding knack for what it takes to build up what most see as a complicated maze of wires, phone lines and equipment. In the end, these guardsmen delivered what they promised.

This multinational team helped make the UAV mission of the AFRL a success by managing three remote RF-Signal sites capable of capturing, sending and receiving intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance information from the UAVs to Headquarters, 1 Brigade.

The purpose of TS09 was to improve U.S./Australian combat readiness & interoperability, maximize combined training opportunities and conduct integrated maritime positioning and logistics over the shore in littoral training areas of Australia. Held biennially, the exercise is conducted primarily in Australia but also involves participation in scenarios and 'real life' training in Hawaii and main land United States.

Scholarship

by Staff Sgt. Travis Metheny
141st Air Refueling Wing Public Affairs

With the average college tuition inflation at 8% annually and the economy pulling itself from a recession, scholarships have become increasingly important to hopeful college students. When the Washington National Guard Scholarship Program (WNGSP) was announced, 24 members of the 141st Air Refueling Wing acted and received \$43,626 of the total \$71,000 ANG scholarship award, the largest award in the past 3-years.

Funding for the WNGSP is provided by the state legislature and as an incentive to retain soldiers and airman. The scholarship awards \$100,000 annually to qualified guardsmen attending in-state colleges.

To be eligible for the scholarship, guardsmen must have maintained a 2.5 GPA with no lower than a 2.5 in any coursework, completed basic military training, and have one year of honorable service with two years retainability.

Scholarship applications were accepted between January 31 and May 31, 2009. "It's a really easy packet fill out. It just asks for information that you know," said Tech. Sgt. Michael Wirth, 141st Mission Support Flight.

The application requires information about the school and type of degree being pursued. It also explains the requirements for maintaining the scholarship. This includes remaining in the Washington National Guard during the service obligation period.

Watch for the 2010 WNGSP announcement this spring.

CDC and PME testing schedule

Until further notice, all CDC and PME testing required during the duty week must be accomplished at the 92nd Education Center. To schedule a test, contact the 92nd Education Center at 247-2348. Tests are administered on Tuesdays and Wednesdays at 0800 and 1300, and on Thursdays at 0800 only. The 141st ARW Education Office will continue to administer tests on Sunday drill.

For more information please contact the 92nd Mission Support Squadron.

6 West Castle St, Bldg. 2380,
Phone: (509) 247-2348

Washington National Guard 'hangs around hoops' for Hoopfest

by Maj. Sandy Smock
141st Air Refueling Wing Public Affairs



Master Sgt. Renee Alsept, 141st Air National Guard recruiter, watches a Hoopfest participant practice some shots at the National Guard tent. (Photo by Maj. Sandy Smock, 141st ARW Public Affairs).

On June 27-28, Hoopfest drew crowds of people to the streets of downtown Spokane. Brightly colored jerseys brightened up the basketball courts but the Washington National Guard wasn't camouflaged in the group. Both the Army and Air National Guard had an active role and served as a sponsor of this year's sports competition celebrating its 20th year of the largest 3-on-3 basketball tournament and family festival of its kind.

The scene was one of over 6,700 teams, 3,000 volunteers, 200,000 players and spectators and 428 courts spanning 40 downtown city blocks. Beyond basketball, Hoopfest is an outdoor festival full of concerts, shopping, food and interactive entertainment.

"Since I am new to the area I had to get background information about the event. I now see what all the "Hoopla" is about. We were able to get the Air Guard name out through many avenues. This event reaches out to so many states and surrounding areas," said Master Sgt. Wilbert Norton, Eastern Washington Recruiting Office supervisor.

The Washington National Guard tent was a popular site for the public, offering appreciated shade from the hot sun. Also available were flight and NASCAR simulators for the public to experience.

"We were able to hand out over 2,000 basketballs, water bottles and Air National Guard jerseys. This was the Air National Guard's first time being present and it was a great opportunity to advertise what we do," said Master Sgt. Renee Alsept, 141st Air National Guard recruiter.

Hoopfest is an event for players of all ages and abilities from around the country to come together in pursuit of the ultimate goal: to become a Hoopfest Champion. Friends and families gather and cheer for their favorite teams, college superstars, co-workers, or even family members.

Spokane Hoopfest Association provides charitable support through distribution of profits to Special Olympics and basketball-related activities.

Hoopfest started as a small community event but now attracts participants from all over the country. With the community having such close ties with its National Guard it was no surprise to see guardsmen in the middle of all the excitement surrounding Hoopfest.

141st ARW delivers donations to Landstuhl's Wounded Warrior Center

by Lt. Col. Nancy Reid Isaak
141st Air Refueling Wing Public Affairs

Operation Spokane Heroes, a volunteer group that works to assist and honor military veterans, led an effort to collect new clothing items for the Wounded Warrior Project in Landstuhl, Germany. The more than 1,200 pounds of donations were then transported by the 141st Air Refueling Wing on a recent mission to Geilenkirchen, Germany.

"It is rewarding for me to showcase the support we get from our great community," said Col. Bulkley, 141st ARW commander. "The service men and women at the Landstuhl Regional Medical Center were overwhelmed by the generosity from the city of Spokane when the boxes arrived at the hospital," he said.

Once the donations arrived in Germany, guardsmen of the 141st ARW Maintenance Group delivered the boxes to the LRMC; where the guardsmen were given a tour of the Wounded Warrior Closet (WWC).

"It was started by nurses who saw many wounded coming in with literally only the clothes on their backs," said Senior Master Sgt. Wayne Deist, 141st ARW Maintenance Group, recalling what he learned from the tour. "As soldiers were treated and began their recovery, they had nothing to wear. Nurses began soliciting donations...it has developed into what is known today as the Wounded Warrior Closet, serving thousands of U.S. military wounded personnel."

After spending some time at the WWC, they were able to visit some recovering soldiers. "We thought it would be especially nice to check in on any Washington guardsmen," Deist said. They met with two Army guardsmen, from Yakima and Kent, Washington. The day they visited the hospital 35 percent of the patients were Guard members.



Members of the 141st ARW offload boxes for the Wounded Warrior Project. (Photo by Master Sgt. Dave Nelson, 141st MXS)

"It meant a lot to me to be able to deliver the items that the local area donated to Operation Spokane Heroes, but the biggest impact on me was when we were talking to the female soldier from Yakima," said Senior Master Sgt. Dave Nelson, 141st ARW Maintenance Group. "She told us about being in the AOR for a year... her husband is still downrange, and they have a two-year-old back home. It's hard not to be moved by people who are truly sacrificing themselves for something more than what is in it for them."

After returning home and reflecting on his experience, Nelson said, "Sure we have our share of frustrations with the association and other things going on, but they pale in comparison to what these people deal with everyday and they don't get to go home to their families when the day is done."

Air Force Ball



Assistant Adjutant General - Air, Washington, Brigadier General Gary Magonigle, is flanked by Staff Sgt. Brian Beaudry, 141st FSS (left) and Staff Sgt. Jacob Shaski, 141st FSS (right). The 141st and 92nd Air Refueling Wings celebrated the 85th anniversary of the Washington Air National Guard and 80 years of air refueling excellence August 22 at the Air Force Ball. The crowd was treated to a heritage production that included members from each Wing dressed in period uniforms, each reciting a portion of the Airman's Creed.

(Photo by Lt. Col. Reid Isaak, 141st ARW Public Affairs).

141st Mission Support Change of Command



Lt. Col. Michael Hirst accepts command of the 141st Mission Support Group in July after receiving the guidon from Col. Greg Bulkley, 141st ARW commander. Lt. Col. Hirst has been a member of the unit for the past 26 years and is replacing Col. Robert Aunan, who is now the 141st ARW vice-commander.

(Photo by Staff Sgt. Anthony Ennamorato, 141st ARW Public Affairs).

UPAR

Air Guard visits Hamblen Elementary School

by Tech. Sgt. David Binford
256 Combat Communication Squadron



Kids from Hamblen Elementary school line up to climb into the cockpit of a T-33A trainer.

It's the last day of school...let the summer begin! At Hamblen Elementary School the day starts early with the sound of large trucks and vehicles rolling through the neighborhood streets. It's the members of the Washington Air National Guard paying a visit to the students, teachers, and parents of Hamblen Elementary School. Members of the 256 Combat Communications Squadron and the 141st Air Refueling Wing Maintenance Squadron assisted in the set-up and the manning of a display that included the 141st ARW Lilac Parade float, a 5-ton M-1083 truck, and a T-33A trainer.

The event was part of an organized activity on the final day of school at Hamblen. Hundreds of kids spent the day participating in a variety of activities that included displays by the Air National Guard. By far the most popular part of the display was the T-33A trainer. The kids were very excited to climb in and out of the cockpit of the aircraft trainer. They were able to push buttons and pull levers that actually resembled the cockpit of an aircraft. Kids were also able to climb into the cab of an M-1083 5-ton truck. Also on display was the 141st ARW Lilac Parade float, which the kids got to see up-close. Thanks to the Air National Guard recruiting office; kids were able to get Air National Guard folders, tablets, pens, pencils, rulers, and foam footballs.

The UPAR program is volunteer Unit Public Affairs Representatives who write and submit stories as they know of events happening. If you have questions or you would like to be a UPAR please contact Captain Sandy Smock at sandy.smock@ang.af.mil

Force Support Squadron conducts summer fitness challenge

by 2nd Lt. Dan Neuenfeldt
141st Force Support Squadron Readiness OIC

Trying to maintain physical fitness in the months between the annual AFPT Test can be challenging for most people. To help combat that, the 141st Force Support Squadron decided to conduct a summer fitness challenge to give their members a goal to work during that down-time. Teams were formed and spirits were high, and members of the FSS embarked on their mission to stay fit.

The first annual FSS summer fitness competition is a three month program that began on April 20th and culminated with a six event competition on July 21st. The competitors were assigned to one of four teams each led by a team leader. Team leaders for this inaugural event were Chief Master Sgt. Steve Holbert, Master Sgt. Kim Hodge, Tech. Sgt. Michael Wirth, and Staff Sgt. Jason Marrazzo. The culmination event consisted of a 200 meter relay swim,

most combined team pushups and sit-ups in a minute, longest combined team plank and wall-sits, and a 1.5 mile relay run. The prize for the winning team was a coveted team trophy with the team members names engraved; which the winning team will retain until the next competition comes around.

The amount of positive feedback from the event has been overwhelming. Master Sgt. Shirey, 141st FSS Retention Office manager, said that the competitions should be done at least quarterly. According to 2nd Lt. Neuenfeldt, 141st FSS Readiness OIC, the FSS wants to build a culture of physical fitness within their organization. "The Air Force is putting increased emphasis on physical fitness continuing next year with biannual testing and independent test scoring. We want to stay ahead of the curve and be fit to fight regardless of the time of year or who

is proctoring the test. Conducting physical fitness competitions are a great way to keep our Airmen motivated and build esprit de corps within the work centers."



Members of the 141st ARW participate in the Force Support Squadron's fitness competition. (Photo by Mr. Bob Tipton, 141st MSF)

The team results from the July competition were as follows:

- 1st Place: Team Dilholes**
- 2nd Place: Team Marrazzo**
- 3rd Place: Team Wirth**
- 4th Place: Team Renegades**

"The support I get from my team gives me motivation to get out of the office and workout."
- Master Sgt. Shirey, 141st FSS Retention Office manager

UPAR

141st ARW members take part in Clear Lake triathlon

by 2nd Lt. Dan Neuenfeldt, 141st Flight Support Squadron Readiness OIC



Master Sgt. Erik Smith, 141st Comm Flight SCOI rides to finish line for the cycling portion of the 92nd ARW Force Support Squadron's 2009 Clear Lake triathlon. Master Sgt. Smith completed his first triathlon, to include a 600 meter swim, a 15 mile bike ride, and a 5 kilometer run in 1 hour, 45 minutes, and 53 seconds. (Photo by AIC Melissa Carlino)



Maj. Sandy Smith, 141st FSF commander, Col. Robert Aunan, 141st ARW vice commander, and Master Sgt. Gladys Shirey, 141ARW Retention Office manager, hold trophies won after taking first place in the relay division at the 2009 Clear Lake triathlon. (Photo by Tricia Shirey).

Congratulations also to Tech. Sgt. Michael Bergquist, first place overall winner and 2nd Lt. Dan Neuenfeldt, first place Men's under 30.

Band of the Northwest returns from deployment

by Maj. Sandy Smock
141st Air Refueling Wing Public Affairs



On July 11, after a one month deployment overseas, WingSpan, an elite 10 member rock band ensemble which is a part of the Air National Guard Band of the Northwest returned. The purpose of military band deployments is to improve the morale of United States and coalition troops through engaging and interactive musical performances. The Band performed 21 concerts in Iraq, Kuwait, Qatar and Afghanistan. Each audience consisted from 50 to 350 military members. With the completion of this tour, more than 6000 troops were entertained while serving.

Purple Camp 2009



Camp Wangy

The five day camp was held August 16-20. The program is geared towards helping kids establish relationships with other kids from National Guard families.

Citizen soldiers from the 81st Brigade arrive at Fairchild

by Maj. Sandy Smock
141st Air Refueling Wing Public Affairs

Citizen soldiers from the Washington National Guard's 81st Brigade Combat Team arrived at Fairchild Air Force Base in early August. Upon arrival at Fairchild, they were greeted by a brief welcome home ceremony located in the Washington Air National Guard hangar. Family members joined local veteran organizations, including the Spokane Patriot Guard, in welcoming home the troops.

The 81st entered federal active duty on August 18, 2008. After conducting pre-deployment training at the Yakima Training Center and Fort McCoy, they deployed in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. Missions for 81st units in Iraq typically focused on convoy security, force protection, provincial reconstruction and base operations.

The 81st is headquartered in Seattle, but is comprised of units from around the state of Washington and a battalion from the California Army National Guard. Approximately 2,400 soldiers from Washington and about 900 from California comprised the deploying force of the 81st. The 81st previously served in Iraq from March 2004 to March 2005.



Adjutant General, Washington, Major General Timothy J. Lowenberg, speaks with troops from the 81st Brigade shortly after their return from a year long deployment. (Photo by Staff Sgt. Anthony Ennamorat, 141st ARW Public Affairs).



Members of the 81st Army Brigade return to WA. (Photo by Staff Sgt. Anthony Ennamorat, 141st ARW Public Affairs).

“Family Day” 2009



Col. Robert Aunan, 141st ARW vice commander, takes aim as he tries to cool off Chief Master Sgt. Tim Flock at the popular dunk tank”.

Hungry picnic goer waits anxiously in line for pudding smothered funnel cake.



Capt. Jason Kessler works hard to keep up with the hungry crowd.

WE ALL SERVE



Commander of the 141st Air Refueling Wing, Colonel Gregory Bulkley (far right) and commander of the 141st ARW Operations Group, Col. Mark Bahosh (far left) pose for a group photo before employers board the KC-135 aircraft for an air refueling mission over Montana for a Boss Lift held in August.

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We all serve. Whether serving our communities or our country, members of the National Guard and Reserve depend on their military units, families, and employers for support. Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve is a Department of Defense agency that seeks to promote a culture in which all American employers support and value the military service of their employees by recognizing outstanding support, increasing awareness of the law and resolving conflict through mediation.



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